

# PSATT Grant Award 2008-2010

## Providing Relevant, Ongoing Technology-rich Education for Classroom Success (PRO TECS)

<b>Lead District:</b>	Lincoln K-12 Schools
<b>Partner Districts:</b>	Elliston Elementary, Dillon Elementary, Ronan Public Schools
<b>Regional Service Center Partner :</b>	Western Montana Partnership for Educational Resources (WMPER)
<b>Project Directors:</b>	Kathy Heisler, Superintendent, Mike Agostinelli and Jason Neiffer
<b>Internal Evaluator:</b>	Dr. Ann Minkler-University of Missoula (UM)
<b>External Evaluator:</b>	Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL) represented by Gary Graves

**Abstract:** Through the effective use of technology, the "Providing Relevant, Ongoing Technology-rich Education for Classroom Success" (PRO TECS) partnership will improve student MontCAS scores by a minimum of 2 percent in math, science, reading and social studies in five high need/poverty districts. Drawing from constructivism (*Burner, 1996; Piaget, 1973*), social constructivism (*Vygotsky, 1978*), communities of practice (*Wenger, 2005*), a conversational model of learning (*Laurillard, 2001*) and the social construction of technology (*Bijker, 1995*), the partnership will address, what some claim to be "the single biggest problem in education today"; that is, the ongoing gap between "digital immigrants" and "digital natives" (*Prensky, 2001*). Through professional development activities that focus on collaboration, communication, project-based learning and social networking, teachers will develop skills that will improve their technology literacy and increase their ability to teach; enabling students to perform better on standardized tests while meeting challenging new state Technology and Library Media content standards.

Built on the success of previous PSATT grants and based on the foundational TALES model, Lincoln School District, the prime applicant, will administer the grant, provide leadership and assist in the development of Individual and Professional Learning Networks (PLN) with partner schools which include Elliston, Dillon, and Ronan. The PRO TECS PLN will include two Mentoring Directors, each proficient with contemporary educational technology pedagogy and currently successfully employing online collaborative tools in Montana classrooms. Faculty members from The School of Education at UM will provide content expertise and participate with their students in the PLN. The Director of Education for iSAFE America partner to develop Internet safety tools addressing the specific issues related to the collaborative nature of PLNs.

At the conclusion of this project, the PRO TECS PLN will be home to a state-wide repository of resources which will include lesson plans, strategies, reflections and videos demonstrating best practices used for effective integration of technology that align challenging standards into learning activities that increase student achievement.

**Regional Service Center Partner Role(s):** The Western Montana Partnership for Educational Resources (WMPER) will provide PIR credit through online staff development, and will collaborate with Educational Technologies and UM faculty to provide internal evaluations.

